



Gloucester County Nature Club Monthly Newsletter

www.gcnatureclub.org

Nature Club meetings are open to the public

October 2022

Program: Saddler's Woods

Presenter: The Saddler's Woods Conservation Association.

Thursday, October 13, 2022 at 7:00 pm at the Holy Nativity Lutheran Church, Wenonah, NJ
(directions below)

Program Coordinator: Rich Dilks 856-468-6342

Saddler's Woods is a 25-acre urban forest unique for its diverse ecological features, including old growth forest, young woodlands, meadow, and wetlands. It is located in Haddon Township, NJ, within five miles of Philadelphia, PA. The woods surround the headwater spring of the main branch of the Newton Creek, a tributary of the Delaware River. Every year, thousands of visitors enjoy Saddler's Woods for passive recreation and nature interpretation.

The old-growth portion of Saddler's Woods is a time capsule, showing visitors the type of forest that once existed when the Arowmen and Erinwonek tribes of the Leni Lenape nation lived here. In the 1800s, former slave Joshua Saddler raised his family next to the woods and wrote into his will that none of his heirs "shall cut the timber thereon". For this early preservation ethic, the woods were officially named in his honor in January 2004.



Saddler's Run, head waters of Newton's Creek, Saddler's Woods

The Saddler's Woods Conservation Association (SWCA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, formed by Haddon Township residents who were active in the movement to save the woods from a development threat. Since its preservation, SWCA volunteers have logged hundreds of hours restoring the woods and offering tours and educational programs.

Directions: The Holy Nativity Lutheran Church is located just off Rt. 553 (Woodbury Glassboro Rd.) immediately south of the traffic light at Mantua Ave. The church parking lot can be accessed by entrances on either Woodbury-Glassboro Road or Lenape Trail (first left off of Mantua Ave).

Field Trip: Beyond Hidden Creek Trail, Glassboro – **New Field Trip Location!**

On Saturday, October 8 please join Jayne Rhynard and our co leaders Rich and Lore at 8:00am am to explore this habitat that includes an old farm road, a wooded trail, meadow, reservoir and a hidden creek. Rich and Lore have been exploring this trail almost literally in their backyard in Glassboro for several years. This past summer they had a wonderful exhibition highlighting their photos and tales from the trail at the Glassboro train depot. As we walk we will identify plants as we hopefully get glimpses of mammals, reptiles, butterflies and some of the over 120 bird species seen here. Most of this walk will not be on paved or groomed trails, bring binoculars & bug spray and we recommend closed footwear. This will be open to the first 9 persons who register for this field trip on the club's Meetup page. Please, only registered participants as we try to manage participants on the trail. Preference will be given to club members. Please reserve early using the Club's Meetup site (<https://www.meetup.com/gloucester-county-nature-club/events/288665233/>) or if not on Meetup by sending an email to fieldtrip@gcnatureclub.org. Participants will receive a confirmation email with directions to the meeting place.

Special Event: The Mad Hatter's Tree Party Sunday, October 23, 1:00 – 3:00pm



The Mad Hatter's Tree Party is a fun way for people to learn about the trees of our community and the critical role that trees play in a healthy environment. The Tree Party is a chance for families and people of all ages to share a whimsical adventure in a community forest.

This event consists of a self-paced, 45-minute walk in Wenonah Woods. This is more than an ordinary hike, though. You will stop at several locations to learn about specific trees along the trail and their role in the overall forest. All stations have been updated for this year and a children's story telling station will be available near the tea house. Musicians will add an instrumental accompaniment to your journey. At the end, you can share light refreshments in the Tea House with the Mad Hatter himself. This event is great for family, and takes place rain or shine.

Walk begins at Eldridge Trail, at the intersection of E. Pine St and S. Princeton Ave. in Wenonah. Families can arrive at their convenience as walks leave regularly. No pre-registration is necessary.

Events by other organizations for October 2022

The following events take place at the **Scotland Run Nature Center** in Clayton. For details and to register for programs, call the center at (856) 881-0845. All events are free.

- **Fall Migration Bird Walks** at Scotland Run Park will be held from 8:00 to 9:30 am on the first and third Thursdays of September and October (Sept. 1st and 15th, and October 6th and 20th). The walks are free, no registration is required, and the walks begin in the Nature Center's parking lot. Come help search for the many birds that pass through Scotland Run Park during fall migration. Participants are encouraged to bring binoculars.

- **Adult Naturalist Program** at Scotland Run Park: 2nd and 4th Thursdays, 9:30 - 11:30 am. **Pre-registration is required.** Each session will include a presentation inside the Nature Center, as well as outdoor exploration (weather permitting). Pre-registration is required. Enrollment is limited; register today! Visit <https://gloucestercountynj.gov/1370/Adult-Naturalist-Program> for program details and registration. Topics to be covered are listed below:
 - 10/13 - Late season pollinator plants
 - 10/27 - Salamanders and frogs

Saturday October 8, 10am: Washington Township Clean Up Day

On Saturday October 8th, the Washington Township Environmental Commission in conjunction with Michael Hogan, naturalist from South Jersey Land & Water Trust, will be removing invasive plants from one of our nature trails in Washington Lake Park. Michael, with an encyclopedic knowledge of native plants, will ID the invasive plants as well point out other flora and fauna of interest. The park is located at 626 Hurffville – Cross Keys Road, Sewell. We will meet at 10am at the tennis court parking lot. The event will last from 10am to 12p.m. We will be distributing tee shirts, gloves and refreshments to all participants. Please bring loppers and/or bypass pruners if available. We will have a few on hand. - *Leon Lakritz*

Sunday, October 16, 2022 at 2pm: Bench and Garden Dedication Ceremony at Tall Pines State Preserve

The public and all supporters of Tall Pines are invited!

Join the Friends of Tall Pines State Preserve as we officially dedicate two new additions at Tall Pines- our 6 new memorial benches and the Tall Pines Pollinator Garden. The benches, each affixed with a memorial plaque, are being dedicated to the memory of Chuck Forsman, who was instrumental in the preservation of Tall Pines State Preserve.

The other addition being dedicated and celebrated is the new Tall Pines Pollinator Garden. Garden creator, Barbara Woodward, will tell how the garden came to be and explain the value of pollinator gardens. Then join Barbara for a short walk through the garden. Light refreshments will be served after these brief ceremonies. The dedications will be held at the garden, just off the large parking area near Woodbury-Glassboro Road.

Rain date is Saturday, October 22 at 2pm.

Natural Events for the month of October

- Pine barrens gentian in bloom in the Pinelands.
- Goldenrods, asters, bonesets, and blazing star in bloom.
- Cranberry harvest in the Pinelands.
- Autumn colors peak in late October.
- The greatest variety of raptor migration comes in mid-October, with golden eagles, red-shouldered hawks and more.
- Fox sparrows, one of the largest sparrows, are often seen under seed feeders during their autumn migration
- Wood ducks are migrating south
- Green-winged teal, one of the smallest dabbling ducks, are passing through the area as they migrate to the shore.

Club Notes:

- If you'd like to receive the newsletter electronically or receive more info about the club please email Karen Kravchuck at blackbirdsinging@hotmail.com or call 609-617-6693 (cell).
- The Nature Club is always looking for ideas for future programs and field trips. Please contact the program or trip coordinator if you have ideas or would like to help.
- Information for the next newsletter should be sent to Barry Bengel at sharkeyes@comcast.net or GCNC Newsletter, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 by the 20th of the preceding month.

YOUTUBE CHANNEL: We are now posting recordings of recent club programs for the convenience of members and the public. To find the club's channel, use [this link](#)  or search for the club's full name within YouTube. Eleven videos are now available, including these recent additions:

- [The Big Year Eco-Challenge](#) (May 2022)
- [Live Animals: New Jersey Raptors & Reptiles](#) (September 2022)

As you often hear on YouTube, be sure to subscribe to the club's channel and "like" the videos so they will get recommended to more people! We will continue recording programs during this club year whenever permitted by speakers and their sponsoring organizations.

Conservation Corner: Protecting Wildlife in Your Backyard

Tips from the National Wildlife Federation to open your backyard to a wonderful world of wildlife:

- **Food:** Native plants provide food eaten by a variety of wildlife. Feeders can supplement natural food sources.
- **Water:** All animals need water to survive, and some need it for bathing or breeding as well.
- **Cover:** Wildlife need places to take shelter from bad weather and places to hide from predators or hunt for prey.
- **Places to Raise Young:** Wildlife need resources to reproduce, and to protect and nourish their young.
- **Sustainable Practices:** Maintain your yard or garden in natural ways to ensure soil, air, and water stay healthy and clean.
- **Please watch what you plant in your garden.** Exotic species not native to your region can become invasive and can be harmful to both people and wildlife. NWF's Garden for Wildlife program helps you plan your landscape with the needs of wildlife in mind. For more information, visit <https://gardenforwildlife.com/>,

- *Bonnie Dann*

Remember to help out the Gloucester County Nature Club



Shopping at Amazon can also benefit the Gloucester County Nature Club at **NO extra cost** to you!

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support your favorite charitable organization every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. You can choose from nearly one million organizations to support.

The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases. The purchase price is the amount paid for the item minus any rebates and excluding shipping & handling, gift-wrapping fees, taxes, or service charges. You may even use your existing Amazon.com account for your purchases.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile.

Reminder - Membership Dues

October continues membership renewals. This year we will be keeping the price the same as last year. Please remember that your dues are the only costs associated with being a club member, we do not charge for any of our programs or field trips. Many organizations charge their members for each walk or activity they attend. We believe that the club is still an excellent value and hope the added cost will not deter any of our members. It is much cheaper for us to send the newsletter electronically to our members and as a result those members who choose to receive the newsletter electronically will receive a discount on their membership. The dues are \$20 for electronic mailings and \$25 for regular mail delivery. Please fill out the membership form at the end of this newsletter and send your renewal form and a check payable to "Gloucester County Nature Club" to: GCNC Membership, P.O. Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080.

You may also sign up and pay your membership dues electronically via PayPal. Just go to <http://gcnatureclub.org/membership.php> and fill out the online form.

WAIVER

Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members or representatives shall not be liable for any injuries, loss or damage to person and/or property, direct or consequential, arising out of any trips and/or activities of the Gloucester County Nature Club. The assumption of risk, which is inherent in this type of outdoor activity, is implied on the part of each person who attends any Gloucester County Nature Club trip, and every person participating in any of said trips and/or activities assumes all risk and liability in connection therewith.

Everyone participating in any activity of the Gloucester County Nature Club will be required to read the release of liability, protecting the Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members and representatives from liability.

Gloucester County Nature Club and/or its leaders, officers, members and representatives are not in any way responsible for the personal safety of the attendees. When walking along a road, keep to the left, facing oncoming traffic and walk in a single file. When walking along trails, do not follow too closely or move too fast for your safety and for the safety of others (avoid collisions and/or whipped branches). FOLLOW THE LEADER: If you forge ahead, you may find yourself alone. Responsible adults must accompany children under the age of 16. If you expect to drop out of the group early, please inform the leader. Report to one or more of the hikers if you intend to discontinue on the route.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION 2022-2023

- New Member Renewal
- Paper Membership (\$25) - regular mail
- Electronic Membership (\$20) - newsletter via email; ***please provide email address below

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ ***Email Address: _____

Please note any special knowledge you would be willing to share: _____

Would you be willing to serve on a committee? If so, which committee(s): _____

Are there other ways you could participate? If so, how? _____

Would you like to give a gift membership? If so, indicate Paper ____ or Electronic ____

Name: _____

Street: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____

A note will be sent informing them of your gift membership in the GCNC, thank you.

I HAVE READ AND UNDERSTAND THE ABOVE WAIVER

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please mail completed form with payment to GCNC, PO Box 563, Sewell, NJ 08080 or bring to a meeting.